

Text Amendment No. ____
Boston Redevelopment Authority
Changes to Article 28
Boston Civic Design Commission

TO THE ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON:

The Boston Redevelopment Authority petitions to amend the text of the Boston Zoning Code, as established under Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956 as amended, as follows:

1. By adding the following phrase before the period at the end of the first sentence of Section 28-14B:

 , subject to the provisions of subsection D below.
2. By deleting Section 28-14D in its entirety and substituting in place thereof the following:
 - D. Quorum and Majority. In no event shall a quorum of the Design Commission be fewer than five members nor shall any action of the Design Commission be taken by a vote of fewer than four members.

to take care of

Petitioner: Boston Redevelopment Authority

By: Stephen Coyle, Director

Address: Boston City Hall, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

Telephone: 722-4300, ext. 4329 or 4330

Date: _____

MEMORANDUM

MAY 1991

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND
STEPHEN COYLE, DIRECTOR

FROM: HOMER RUSSELL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR URBAN DESIGN AND
DEVELOPMENT,
LINDA MONGELLI-HARR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR NEIGHBORHOOD
PLANNING AND ZONING, AND
THOMAS MAISTROS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BCDC

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 28 OF THE BOSTON ZONING CODE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: THIS MEMORANDUM REQUESTS THAT THE BRA BOARD AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO PETITION THE ZONING COMMISSION TO AMEND ARTICLE 28, BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION, TO REQUIRE THE BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION'S MEETING QUORUM TO BE NOT LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS AND A VOTE BE NOT LESS THAN FOUR MEMBERS.

On June 20, 1986, Article 28 of the Boston Zoning Code was approved establishing the Boston Civic Design Commission. The premise for this Article was that the citizens of Boston have a responsibility to participate in shaping the public realm and that this responsibility begins with the public review of the design of large-scale and other significant public and private projects. The Article established the BCDC to provide a forum for discussion on timely issues affecting the public realm.

The BCDC is an advisory body composed of eleven individuals, six of whom must be design professionals with a demonstrated interest or expertise in urban design. The BCDC has during the past year effectively assisted and advised the City in the review of large-scale development projects, projects of special significance, civic projects and district design guidelines.

In recent months, the recusal of members has on several occasions prevented the BCDC from conducting business due to the requirement that no less than seven members be required to constitute a quorum. The BCDC has therefore requested that the BRA seek to amend Article 28 to reduce the number of members required for a quorum from seven to five and in no event shall a vote be fewer than four members. The staff believes that such amendments would be consistent with the efficient operation of the BCDC and would have no adverse effect on the soundness of the BCDC's decisions.

An appropriate vote follows:

That the Director is authorized to petition the Zoning Commission for an amendment to Article 28 of the Boston Zoning Code in substantial accord with the draft petition submitted at the meeting of May 23, 1991. The amendment would permit the BCDC to have a quorum of not less than five members and a vote of fewer than four members.

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May 16, 1991

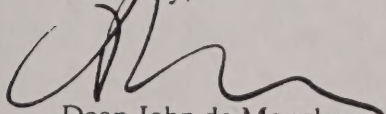
Mr. Stephen Coyle, Director
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Coyle,

RE: Quorum for the Boston Civic Design Commission

I am pleased to inform you that the BCDC has effectively completed its first year rendering positive design input to several important development and planning guideline proposals for the City. However, the recusal of Commission Members has, on several occasions, prevented the Commission from making a recommendation in a timely manner. The Article 28 requirement that the BCDC have a quorum of no less than seven members needs to be altered to deal with the recusal of members. We seek some latitude on this issue and request that the BRA petition the City of Boston Zoning Commission to amend this requirement. We recommend either a reduction in the number of members required for a quorum or an allowance permitting a quorum to be a majority of non-recused members. We believe such a change is necessary to allow the BCDC to function in a most efficient and productive manner.

Sincerely,



Dean John de Monchaux